

Serial No.: 10/511,168  
Atty. Docket No.: P70187US0

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A collecting bag for human body wastes, comprising:

a bag member including at least two outer film blanks with joined edges defining the outer contours of the bag member, said outer contours defining a fluid-retaining area of said bag member;

an inlet opening provided in one of said film blanks;

a discharge portion at a distance from the inlet opening, in a lower portion of the bag member, including a closure device for bringing the bag from a discharge position, in which the bag is open, to a position of use, in which the bag is closed, the discharge portion defining a longitudinal direction;

an accommodating element within the outer contours of the bag member for accommodating at least a part of the discharge portion in the position of use of the bag;

said bag member including at least a first substantially tubular inner film element and a second substantially tubular inner film element, each substantially tubular inner film element being within said fluid-retaining area of said bag member and attached to the inner side of each outer film blank by means of at least one

Serial No.: 10/511,168  
Atty. Docket No.: P70187US0

joint, said first and second substantially tubular inner film elements being respectively situated on each ~~a respective~~ side of a dividing line substantially parallel with the longitudinal direction defined by the discharge portion, each of said substantially tubular inner film elements having, when the bag is substantially empty, a distal fold and a proximal fold with respect to said dividing line;

    a first joint between the first substantially tubular inner film element and one outer film blank and a second joint between the second substantially tubular inner film element and said one outer film blank each respectively including at least one proximal joint section at or near the proximal fold and at least one distal joint section at or near the distal fold, for each of said first and second joints a first distance between at least a lower part of the proximal joint section and the proximal fold being smaller than a second distance between at least a lower part of the distal joint section and the distal fold; and

    said accommodating element providing at least one opening for receiving at least a part of the discharge portion in the position of use of the bag, said opening extending substantially transversely between the proximal joint sections of the first and the second substantially tubular inner film elements, respectively.

Serial No.: 10/511,168  
Atty. Docket No.: P70187US0

2. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the proximal joint sections between the first and second substantially tubular inner film elements, respectively, and said one outer film blanks extend obliquely with respect to said dividing line such that said proximal joint sections converge in the direction of the discharge portion.

3. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second distance between the distal joint section and the distal fold is larger than the first distance between the lower part of the proximal joint section and the proximal fold and smaller than a third distance between the upper part of the proximal joint section and the proximal fold.

4. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 2, wherein an angle of inclination between each oblique joint section and the dividing line lies in the range from 5° to 60°.

5. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 2, wherein a distance between the lower ends of the oblique joint sections substantially corresponds to the cross-sectional dimensions of the corresponding part of the discharge portion.

Serial No.: 10/511,168  
Atty. Docket No.: P70187US0

6. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein each proximal joint section is substantially parallel with its respective proximal fold, such that the first distance between the proximal joint section and the proximal fold is substantially uniform along a length of said proximal joint section, and wherein said first distance is smaller than the second distance between the distal joint section and the distal fold.

7. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 6, wherein a distance between the proximal joint sections substantially corresponds to the cross-sectional dimensions of the corresponding part of the discharge portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein said accommodating element is a comfort layer overlying said one outer film blank, and wherein said at least one opening is provided by a slit in said comfort layer.

9. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 8, wherein a reinforcing layer is inserted between said one outer film blank and said comfort layer, at least in the area of said slit.

Serial No.: 10/511,168  
Atty. Docket No.: P70187US0

10. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said joint sections are reinforced by a reinforcing portion.

11. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein additional substantially tubular inner film elements are provided in the bag member.

12. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein each substantially tubular inner film element is provided in the area of the bag member situated near the discharge portion.

13. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bag member is substantially symmetrical with respect to said dividing line.

14. (Previously Presented) A collecting bag for human body wastes, comprising:

a bag member including at least two outer film blanks with joined edges defining outer contours of the bag member and a fluid-retaining area within said bag member;

Serial No.: 10/511,168  
Atty. Docket No.: P70187US0

an inlet opening provided in one of said film blanks;  
a discharge portion at a distance from the inlet opening,  
in a lower portion of the bag member, including a closure device  
for bringing the bag from a discharge position, in which the bag is  
open, to a position of use, in which the bag is closed, the  
discharge portion defining a longitudinal direction;

an accommodating element within the outer contours of the  
bag member for accommodating at least a part of the discharge  
portion in the position of use of the bag;

said bag member includes at least a first and a second  
substantially tubular inner film element, each substantially  
tubular inner film element being enclosed within said bag member in  
said fluid-retaining area and being attached to the inner side of  
each outer film blank by a respective pair of spaced joint  
sections, said first and second substantially tubular inner film  
elements being respectively situated at a respective side of a  
dividing line that is substantially parallel with the longitudinal  
direction defined by the discharge portion and each substantially  
tubular inner film element being provided in the area of the bag  
member situated near the discharge portion;

said accommodating element including an element providing  
at least one opening for receiving at least a part of the discharge

Serial No.: 10/511,168  
Atty. Docket No.: P70187US0

portion in the position of use of the bag, said opening extending substantially transversely between said respective pairs of joint sections of the first and the second substantially tubular inner film elements, respectively.

15. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least the joint sections of each pair of joints that are proximal to said dividing line extend obliquely with respect to said dividing line such that said proximal joint sections converge in the direction of the discharge portion.

16. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 15 wherein an angle of inclination between each oblique joint section and the dividing line lies in the range from 5° to 60°.

17. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 16, wherein a distance between the proximal joint sections substantially corresponds to cross-sectional dimensions of a corresponding part of the discharge portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 14, wherein said accommodating element is a comfort layer

Serial No.: 10/511,168  
Atty. Docket No.: P70187US0

overlying at least one outer film blank, said opening being provided by a slit in said comfort layer.

19. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 18, wherein a reinforcing layer is inserted between said one outer film blank and said comfort layer, at least in the area of said slit.

20. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 14, wherein said bag member is substantially symmetrical with respect to said dividing line.